Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original):   A multimedia system, comprising:

a bulk decoder coupled to a network, the bulk decoder decoding data received from the network and transmitting the decoded data to an interconnect; and

an output device coupled to the interconnect for accepting the decoded data.

Claim 2 (original):   The system of claim 1, wherein the bulk decoder comprises:

a central processor;

a demultiplexer coupled to the central processor;

at least one decoder coupled to the demultiplexer; and

a multiplexer coupled to the at least one decoder.

Claim 3 (original):   The system of claim 2, further comprising a processor coupled between the network and the interconnect for converting data in various data formats into data represented by one protocol.

Claim 4 (original):   The system of claim 1, wherein the output device comprises a desktop unit.

Claim 5 (original):   The system of claim 1, wherein the output device comprises a storage.

Claim 6 (original): The system of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of bulk decoders coupled to the network and the interconnect.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A network system, comprising:

a server coupled to a network;

a bulk decoder coupled to the network, the bulk decoder receiving a signal from the network, the bulk decoder being controlled by the server, the bulk decoder including,

a processor, the processor capable of receiving the signal from the network, the processor further capable of converting the signal into a single protocol signal when the signal includes intermixed data; and

at least one device coupled to the bulk decoder for accepting decoded signal from the decoder.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The network system of claim 7, wherein the bulk decoder comprisesfurther includes:

a processor; and

at least one decoder for decoding the signal from the network.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The network system of claim 8, further comprising:

a demultiplexer coupled between tothe network and the processor and the at least one decoder for demultiplexing the signal; and

a multiplexer coupled to the processor and the at least one decoder for multiplexing the decoded signal.

Claim 10 (original):   The network system of claim 7, further comprising a plurality of bulk decoders coupled to the network.

Claim 11 (original):   A bulk decoder for decoding signals received from a network and distributing decoded signals to corresponding output devices through an interconnect, comprising:

a central processor;

a demultiplexer coupled to the central processor;

a multiplexer coupled to the central processor; and

at least one decoder coupled to the demultiplexer and the multiplexer.

Claim 12 (currently amended):   The bulk decoder of claim 11, further comprising a processor for converting signals <u>received from the network having</u> ~~in~~ various data formats into ~~data represented by~~ a single protocol <u>signals</u>.

Claim 13 (original):   The bulk decoder of claim 12, wherein the processor comprises a video processor.

Claim 14 (original):   The bulk decoder of claim 12, wherein the processor comprises an audio processor.

Claim 15 (original):   A method for sharing decoding resources in a network system, comprising:

transmitting a signal to a network;

decoding the signal using a bulk decoder coupled to the network; and

transmitting decoded data to an interconnect.

Claim 16 (original):   The method of claim 15, further comprising controlling the bulk decoder using a server coupled to the network.

Claim 17 (currently amended):   The method of claim 16, wherein <u>when</u> the signal comprises intermixed data signals, the <u>operation of</u> decoding ~~comprises~~ <u>includes</u>:

demultiplexing the signal to obtain individual data signals;

decoding the individual data signals; and

multiplexing the decoded individual data signals.

Claim 18 (original):   The method of claim 17, further comprising transmitting the multiplexed decoded individual data signals to corresponding output devices coupled to the interconnect.

Claim 19 (original):   The method of claim 17, further comprising representing the decoded individual data signals by one protocol.

Claim 20 (original):   The method of claim 15, further comprising adjusting the number of bulk decoders coupled to the network in accordance with a system load.

Claim 21 (new):   A multimedia system, comprising:

a bulk decoder coupled to a network, the bulk decoder configured to decode data received from the network and transmit decoded data to an interconnect, the bulk decoder being

capable of converting data received from the network in various data formats into data

represented by a single protocol; and

an output device coupled to the interconnect for accepting the decoded data.

Claim 22 (new):   A bulk decoder for decoding signals received from a network and

distributing decoded signals to corresponding output devices through an interconnect,

comprising:

a central processor;

a demultiplexer coupled to the central processor;

a multiplexer coupled to the central processor;

at least one decoder coupled to the demultiplexer and the multiplexer; and

a processor for converting signals from the network including various data formats into

single protocol signals.